the Women Special Entry Scheme, under which lady officers in the Army could not go beyond the rank of Captain; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that this decision has not been implemented as yet and if so, the reasons therefor and by when it would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. Women Special Entry Scheme (Officers) has been closed and women officers in the Army will be inducted through the Short Service Commission Officers entry.

(b) No, Sir.

Bungling in defence purchases

†909. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to stop bungling in defence purchases; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Defence purchases are made in accordance with Defence Procurement Procedure 2005 for capital procurement and Defence Procurement Manual 2005 for revenue stores. These documents incorporate several provisions to ensure transparency, accountability and to cut down on delays in the procurement process. These are reviewed from time to time and as required amendments and clarifications are issued. Constant endeavour is made to ensure expeditious procurement of the approved requirements of the Armed Forces with highest degree of probity, public accountability and transparency in a competitive environment.

Russian warships purchased by India

910. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has purchased a warship from Russia recently; if so, the Russian name and changed Indian name thereof;

(b) what actual life of this ship was fixed in Russia, and how far it has been extended to become an Indian Ship, and how powerful it would be;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.